the venture and whether any concrete shape has been given to the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Sino-Indian relations

1037. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how far Sino-Indian relations have improved after Prime Minister's visit to China few months back;

(b) whether bi-lateral trade between the two countries has considerably increased after this visit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the balance of trade is favourable to India; and

(e) if so, the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) During Prime Minister's visit to China in June, 2003, both leaders signed a Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation, which lays down a blueprint for development of India-China relations. Provisions of the Declaration are being implemented. The Special Representatives on the boundary question held their first meeting in New Delhi on October, 23-24, 2003. Bi-lateral cooperation in diverse areas, including economic and commercial, has increased. Both sides have also continued the process of high-level exchanges. Among other exchanges, Mr. Jia Qinglin, Chairman of National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference paid an official visit to India from 23 to 27 November, 2003.

(b) to (e) As per China's Customs Statistics, in January-September, 2003, India-China bi-lateral trade increased by over 50% to reach US$ 5,330 million. While Indian exports increased by about 85% to reach US$ 2,957 million, Indian imports increased by about 28% to reach US$ 2,373 million. The trade balance of over US$ 500 million was thus in India's favour.